

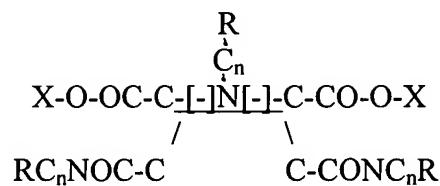
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 35 and amend claims 2-3, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26, 28-30, 32 and 34 to read as follows:

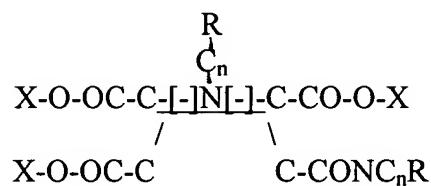
I claim:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) A chelating composition in combination with fertilizer or fertilizer additives, said chelating composition comprising a modified iminodisuccinic acid, or a salt thereof, having one or more of the following formulas:

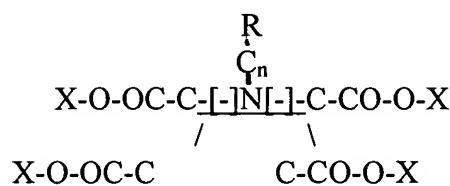
(a)



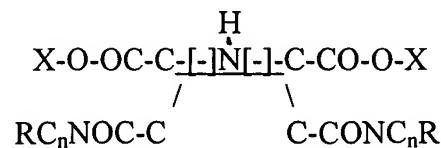
(b)



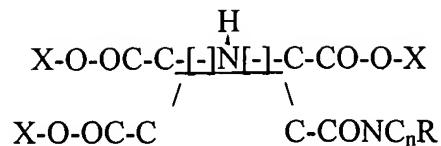
(c)



(d)



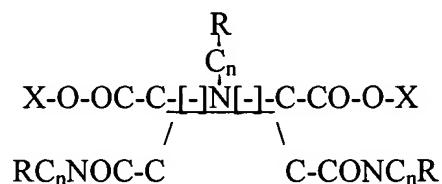
(e)



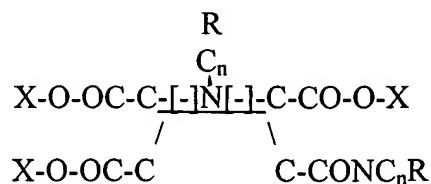
where X may be H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal;
where n may be 1 to 10; and
where R may be a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons.

3. (Currently Amended) A fertilizer comprising a chelating composition for application to soils, seeds or plants, said chelating composition comprising a modified iminodisuccinic acid, or a salt thereof, having one or more of the following formulas:

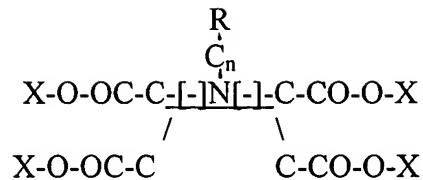
(a)



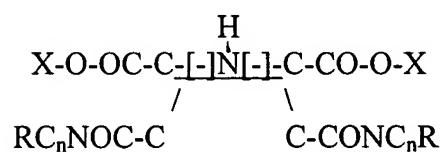
(b)



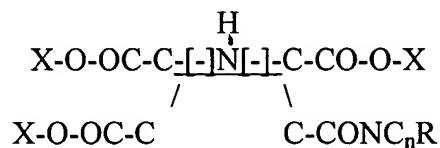
(c)



(d)



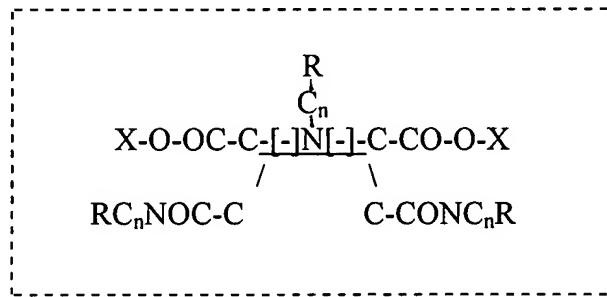
(e)



where X may be H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal;
where n may be 1 to 10; and
where R may be a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons.

4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).
10. (Canceled).
11. (Canceled).
12. (Currently Amended) A compound used as a fertilizer additive comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:

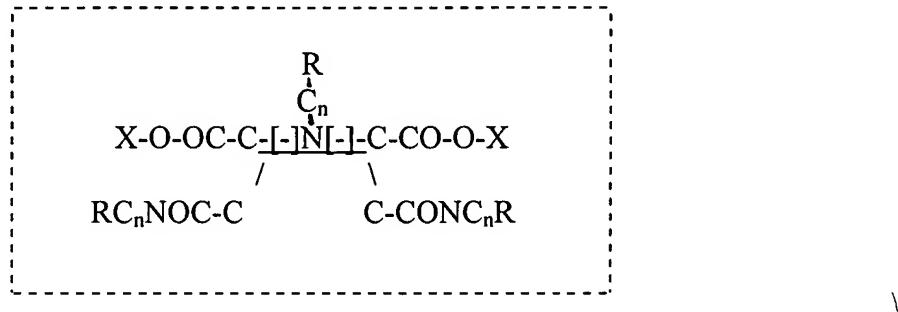


where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal; n is 1 to 10, and R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, wherein said compound is synthesized by a synthesis comprising the steps of:

- (a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine, and allowing same to react to form a N-polyfunctional acid common name amide; and
- (b) adding water, Me(OH), and a second polyfunctional amine to said N-polyfunctional acid common name amide and allowing same to react to form an imino di N-polyfunctional acid common name amide.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound used as a chelating agent in a concentration of 1/10^a to 1 part, where a is less than 10, or 1.0 x 10⁻⁹ Molar to 3Molar, wherein said compound

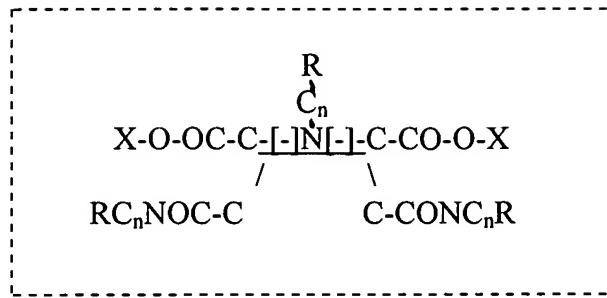
comprises at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal; n is 1 to 10, and R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, and wherein said compound is synthesized by a synthesis comprising the steps of:

- (a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine, and allowing same to react to form a N-polyfunctional acid common name amide; and
- (b) adding water, Me(OH), and a second polyfunctional amine to said N-polyfunctional acid common name amide and allowing same to react to form an imino di N- polyfunctional acid common name amide.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound used for application to soils, seed, or plants, wherein said compound comprises at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:

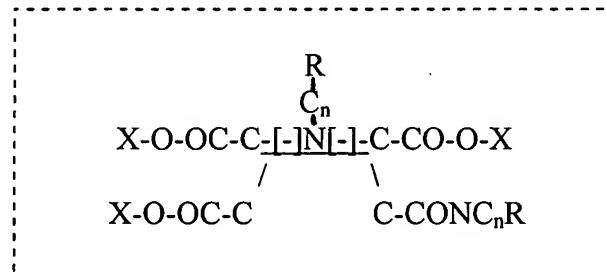


where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal; n is 1 to 10, and R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, and wherein said compound is synthesized by a synthesis comprising the steps of:

- (a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine, and allowing same to react to form a N-polyfunctional acid common name amide; and
- (b) adding water, Me(OH), and a second polyfunctional amine to said N-polyfunctional acid common name amide and allowing same to react to form an imino di N-polyfunctional acid common name amide.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A compound used as a fertilizer additive comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:

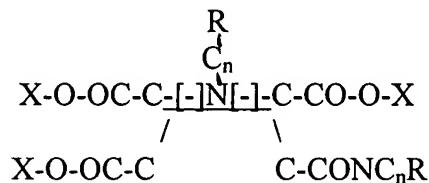


where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts, n is 1 to 10, R is a lewis base capable of donating a

nonbonded pair of electrons, and Me is selected from the alkali metals, and wherein the synthesis of said compound comprises the steps of:

- (a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine, and allowing same to react to form a N- polyfunctional acid common name amide; and
- (b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water, a second polyfunctional amine, an acid anhydride or lactone, a Me (OH), and allowing same to react to form said compound.

17. (Currently Amended) A compound used as a chelating agent in a concentration of $1/10^a$ to 1 part, where a is less than 10, or 1.0×10^{-9} Molar to 3Molar, said compound comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:

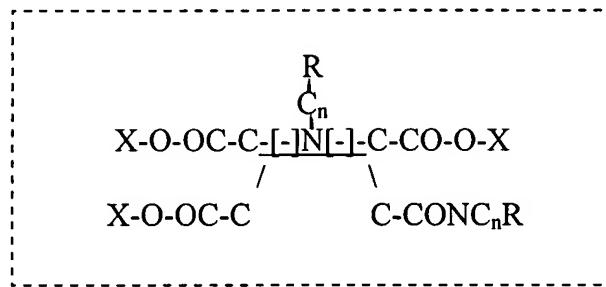


where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts, n is 1 to 10, R is a lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, and Me is selected from the alkali metals, wherein the synthesis of said compound comprises the steps of:

- (a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine, and allowing same to react to form a N- polyfunctional acid common name amide; and

(b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water, a second polyfunctional amine, an acid anhydride or lactone, a Me (OH), and allowing same to react to form said compound.

18. (Currently Amended) A compound used for application to soils, seed, or plants, said compound comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



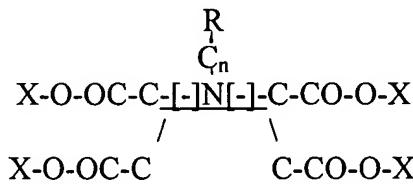
where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts, n is 1 to 10, R is a lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, and Me is selected from the alkali metals, wherein the synthesis of said compound comprises the steps of:

(a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine, and allowing same to react to form a N- polyfunctional acid common name amide; and

(b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water, a second polyfunctional amine, an acid anhydride or lactone, a Me (OH), and allowing same to react to form said compound.

19. (Canceled).

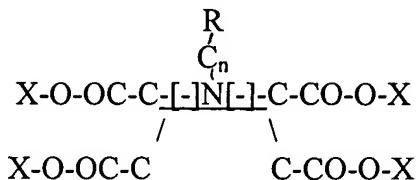
20. (Currently Amended) A fertilizer additive comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts; where n is 1 to 10; where R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, wherein the synthesis of said fertilizer additive comprises the steps of :

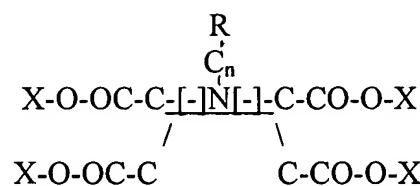
adding maleic anhydride or malic acid to Me (OH) + polyfunctional amine + water, and allowing same to react to form the N, N-disuccinamino(:functional group).

21. (Currently Amended) A chelating agent in a concentration of $1/10^a$ to 1 part, where a is less than 10, or, or 1.0×10^{-9} Molar to 3 Molar, wherein said chelating agent comprises at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts; where n is 1 to 10; where R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, and wherein the synthesis of said chelating agent comprises the steps of : adding maleic anhydride or malic acid to Me (OH) + polyfunctional amine + water, and allowing same to react to form the N, N-disuccinamino(:functional group).

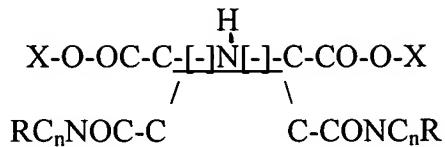
22. (Currently Amended) A compound used for application to soils, seed, or plants comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts; where n is 1 to 10; where R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, wherein the synthesis of said compound comprises the steps of : adding maleic anhydride or malic acid to Me (OH) + polyfunctional amine + water, and allowing same to react to form the N, N-disuccinamino(:functional group).

23. (Canceled).

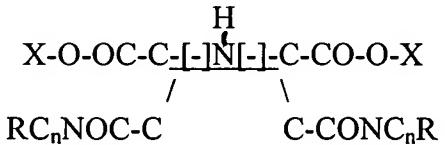
24. (Currently Amended) A fertilizer additive comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts; where n is 1 to 10, where R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons; wherein the synthesis of said fertilizer additive comprises the steps of :

- (a) adding acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine and allowing same to react to form a N- polyfunctional acid common name amide; and
- (b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water + ammonia + Me(OH), and allowing same to react to form an N,N- amino polyfunctional acid common name amide.

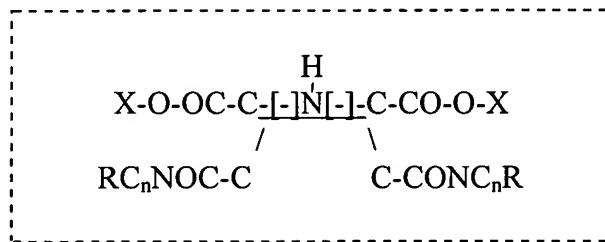
25. (Currently Amended) A chelating agent in a concentration of $1/10^a$ to 1 part, where a is less than 10, or 1.0×10^9 Molar to 3 Molar, said chelating agent comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts; where n is 1 to 10, where R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons; and wherein the synthesis of said chelating agent comprises the steps of :

- (a) adding acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine and allowing same to react to form a N- polyfunctional acid common name amide; and
- (b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water + ammonia + Me(OH), and allowing same to react to form an N,N- amino polyfunctional acid common name amide.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound used for application to soils, seed, or plants comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:

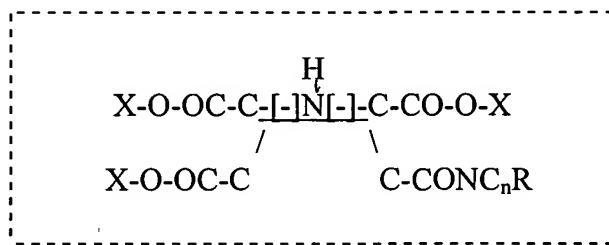


where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts; where n is 1 to 10, where R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons; and wherein the synthesis of said compound comprises the steps of : (a) adding acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine and allowing same to

react to form a N- polyfunctional acid common name amide; and (b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water + ammonia + Me(OH), and allowing same to react to form an N,N- amino polyfunctional acid common name amide.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) A fertilizer additive comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:

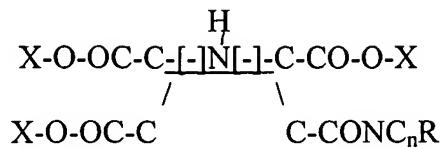


where X may be H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal; where n may be 1 to 10; where R may be a lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons; wherein the synthesis of said fertilizer additive comprises the steps of:

(a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine and allowing same to react to form an N- polyfunctional acid common name amide;

(b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water, ammonia + maleic anhydride or maleic acid (salt) and allowing same to react to form said fertilizer additive.

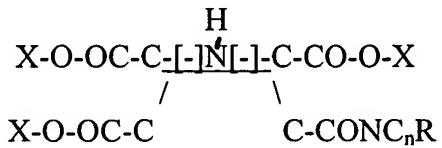
29. (Currently Amended) A chelating agent[s] in a concentration[s] of $1/10^a$ to 1part, where a is less then 10, or 1.0×10^{-9} Molar to 3 Molar, said chelating agent comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



where X may be H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal; where n may be 1 to 10; where R may be a lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons; wherein the synthesis of said chelating agent comprises the steps of:

- (a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine and allowing same to react to form an N- polyfunctional acid common name amide;
- (b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water, ammonia + maleic anhydride or maleic acid (salt) and allowing same to react to form said chelating agent.

30. (Currently Amended) A compound used for application to soils, seed, or plants, said compound comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:

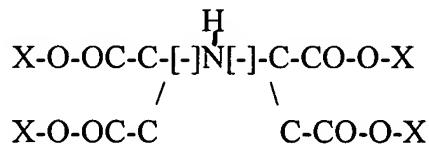


where X may be H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal; where n may be 1 to 10; where R may be a lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons; wherein the synthesis of said compound comprises the steps of:

- (a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine and allowing same to react to form an N- polyfunctional acid common name amide;
- (b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water, ammonia + maleic anhydride or maleic acid (salt) and allowing same to react to form said compound.

31. (Canceled).

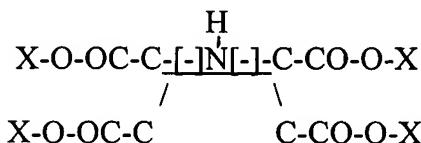
32. (Currently Amended) A fertilizer additive comprising iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salt.

33. (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) An iminodisuccinic acid used for application to soils, seed, or plants having the following formula:



where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salt.

35. Canceled.